brought to you by
Shoujo Sense

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僕のとなりはキミしかいない
You're the only one beside me

SFX: CHEERING 2X
7
GO!
SANO
9
7
9
GAKU!
I DREW THE HERO OF THIS STORY USING IMAGE OF SANO GAKU-SAN. IT'S COMPLETELY FICTIONAL. IT HAS NO RELATION TO REAL PEOPLE AND/OR PLACES.

He really did it!
HE DID IT!
SFX: SWOOSH
KYAAA GAKU-SENPAI!
AMAZING AS USUAL ...
HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
Yeah, that's right...
SACHI,

SANO
9
DID YOU SEE THAT ?!
WAS I COOL?!

Gaku's my boyfriend.
I DID MY BEST FOR YOU, SACHI.

"Come to cheer wearing this."
Our school's popular...
"The couples cheer with matching uniforms"
so...
EH?
THAT'S GAKU-SENPAI'S GIRL-FRIEND?
But...
But...
SHE LOOKS SO PLAIN...
in that jersey.
Saying that, it made me so happy...
He gave me the uniform and...
Hehe...
9

This uniform is proof that I'm Gaku's girlfriend.
But
Zip
I have no confidence being seen by everyone in this uniform.
SACHI.

GA-
GAKU ...
YOU'RE SO CUTE IN THIS JERSEY!
YOU DIDN'T TAKE OFF JERSEY TODAY EITHER?
NEXT MATCH IS THE CHAMPION-SHIPS.
SO NEXT TIME PLEASE CHEER FOR ME IN THIS UNIFORM.
OKAY?

IF YOU DO THEN I'LL PLAY SUPER HARD.
I want to... cheer him on in uniform, but...
Y- YEAH ...
SFX: CLENCH
"That's Gaku-senpai's girlfriend?"
...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE TAKING A BREAK FROM PRACTICE TOMOR-ROW.
SO LET'S GO SOME-WHERE!

SOME-
WHERE
YOU WANT
TO GO TO,
SACHI!
OKAY?
God...
THEN...
please
give me
courage.
SURE!

BUT ARE YOU REALLY SATISFIED WITH JUST A PICNIC?
THIS IS FINE.
Shouldn't we go someplace more fun?
Yeah
IT'S ALL JUST SIMPLE STUFF
SACHI'S HOMEMADE BOXED LUNCH!
It looks so tasty
MMM...
so I don't need to worry about attracting attention...
If it's here, we won't meet many people from school,
Ah.
WELL, I'M LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO EAT SACCHAN'S HANDMADE MEEL~

SFX THUMP
!
GIVE ME A BITE FROM THAT TOO!
SFX MUNCH
SFX BLUSH
AH-

SFX CLATTER
I'll GO BUY DRINKS!
Argh!
I run away!!
ALL TAGS COLD
UGH...
¥150
Sigh...
I can't even decide something like this...
Which one?
HMM...
WHICH ONE SHOULD I BUY?!
WOULD GAKU WANT A COLD DRINK? MAYBE A WARM ONE?
Juice?!
Tea?!
PEPSI
HMMMM...

GAKU.
I'm always really indecisive...
Beep
YOU WERE TAKING A LONG TIME
HERE.
...
I THOUGHT YOU OVER-WHELMED AGAIN.

IT'S FINE TO BUY 2 JUICES AND TRADE A HALF.
WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Gaku...

LAND
AH.
A bug
I really want to wear it...!!
Bzzzn
the uniform ...
UM...
YOU KNOW,

Gasp
KYAAA !!
Nooo, Get it off!
IT ALREADY FLEW AWAY
OH...
SFX HUG
What a bold thing I did...
!
GA-
GAKU...?
W-
What?
Something like that...

Eh...?
Slip
MATCHING.
WE'RE...

What should I do...?
NO...
IF IT'S TOO EMBARRASING FOR YOU TO WEAR THE UNIFORM, I WONDER IF YOU COULD WEAR THIS NECKLACE INSTEAD.
you can even hide it in under your school uniform
I'M HAPPY!

I FINALLY MADE YOU SMILE!
WAH-
HUH?
GAKU-SENPAI?!
WAIT, IS THAT REALLY GAKU-SENPAI?
MAN, IT'S BEEN SO LONG!!
AH.
HOW ARE YOU DOING GAKU-SENPAI?

Gaku's kouhais are from middle school...?
Are they from the soccer club?
EH?
ARE YOU PERHAPS HIS GIRL-FRIEND?!
WOOH
YOU'RE SO CUTE!
EH?
N-
no way... they usually say...
"Isn't she plain?"
"That's Gaku-senpai's girlfriend?!"
But...

Maybe it's thanks to the necklace.
I'm honestly happy.
AH.
LOOK AT THAT!
!
AREN'T YOU TWO WEARING MATCHING NECKLACES?

Ba-thump
IT'S A UNIFORM, RIGHT?!
A MATCH-ING ONE!!
RATHER, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT MATCHING,
YOU'RE SO LOVEY-DOVEY!
YEAH!
IT SEEM LIKE IT WOULD SUIT YOU!!
THINK ABOUT IT...
A GIRLFRIEND GOING TO CHEER ON HER BOYFRIEND IN HIS UNIFORM!!
AH...
UM...
ARE YOU WEARING IT?!
Maybe next match ...
NO.

SACHI WON'T WEAR IT.
Eh?
I THINK I'LL HEAD BACK NOW
I'LL SEE YOU GUYS AROUND.
EH?!

SFX GRAB
がしっ
GAKU...
WAIT!
GAKU!
W...
WHY...
DID YOU SAY THAT...?
Because Gaku said he's going to wear it.

HEY.
THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY.
Huh...?
We had so much fun until just a little earlier.

GAKU, YOU'RE REALLY...
EMBARRASSED WITH ME AS A GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
I GET IT.
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF IT WASN'T ME, WOULDN'T IT?

"That's enough already."
I wonder if it's really okay for me to be Gaku's girlfriend...
I never had confidence.
As I thought.

I was a bad choice.
Since then... I've avoided Gaku, but...
HEY
RESTLESS
The match has probably started already.

"So next time please cheer for me in this uniform."
I came wearing it.
SAND
9
Although...
we're already over.

AH! SACHI'S HERE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
We were searching all over for you!!
I COULDN'T CONTACT YOU EITHER!!
?
N-
NO, I...
Let go of me
GAKU-KUN'S TEAM TIED AND GOT A PENALTY KICK.
GAKU-KUN'S KICKING IT ABOUT NOW!!
SFX. REACH
"Gaku-kun's doing badly today..."
"If he won't decide it now, they'll definitely lose."

SAMO
9

Gaku...
You're really embarrassed with me as a girlfriend, right?
Really?
I'm so stupid.
Gaku isn't someone who'd think that way.
SFX: UNZIP

GAKU!

SFX: TADA

SANO

DO YOUR BEST!!

I'M SO SORRY!!

THEY CALLED YOU CUTE...

AND YOU LOOKED SO HAPPY ABOUT IT TOO.

I WAS TERRIBLY JEALOUS BEFORE!!

I WAS THINKING THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WANTED US TO DRESS THE SAME!

AAH...

SACHI...

YOU WERE SO COOL.

THAT'S SO LAME ...

I WANT ONLY ONE PERSON BY MY SIDE.

AND THAT'S YOU, SACHI.

WAAH!

SACHIII!!

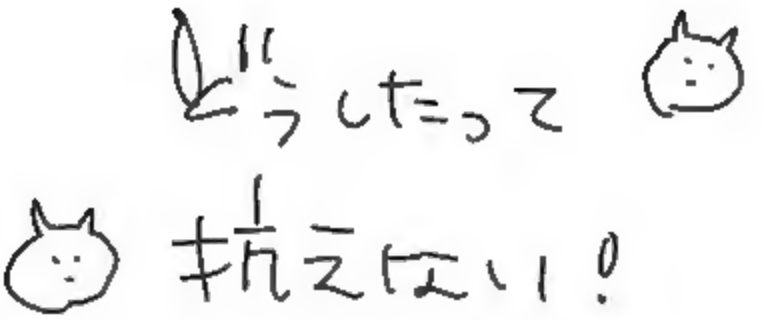
... YOU KNOW, SACHI.

KISS!

KISS!

I'm so envious.

<You're the only one beside me> "END" First Published in Sho-Comi 2015 Issue 22


どうしたって
抗えない！
猫がすきです。